

# CANCER

## The Issue

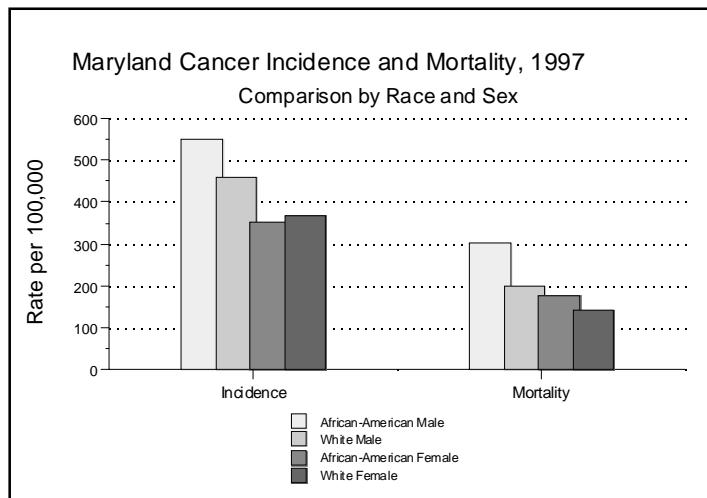
*Maryland's overall cancer rates exceed comparable national rates and have remained at these elevated levels for several years. Deployment of preventive measures, especially early detection, offers the greatest promise in addressing this problem.*

Overall rates of cancer mortality in Maryland have exceeded the comparable rates for the United States for several years, and have remained level for many years. The rates do not meet the Healthy People 2010 target. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Maryland; one in every five deaths is due to cancer.

In 1997, Maryland had the seventh highest death rate compared to other states in the nation. Additionally, 17 of the 24 Maryland jurisdictions had cancer mortality rates that were higher than the nation.

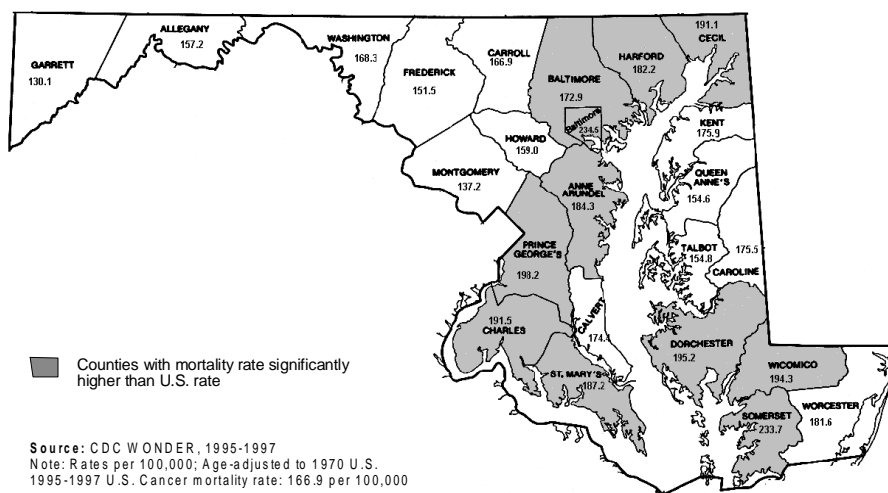
Most cancer deaths in Maryland are due to lung, colon and rectum, breast, and prostate cancers. Other leading types of cancer in Maryland include bladder, melanoma of the skin, and oral cavity/pharynx. The incidence of cancer, as well as cancer mortality, is higher among African-American males than white males. Although white females have a higher incidence of cancer than African-American females, overall cancer mortality is higher among African-American females.

Implementing early detection programs for colorectal, breast, oral, skin and cervical cancer can significantly reduce mortality for these cancers. Controlling exposure to known risk factors, such as tobacco use, sun, and diet change can help prevent cancers of the lungs, skin, colon, and other cancers.



Source: Maryland Cancer Registry, 1997

## Cancer Mortality Rates for Maryland Counties, 1995-1997



## Topics, by jurisdiction, included in the Health Improvement Plan

**Statewide** - *Conquering Cancer in Maryland*

**Cecil County** - *Lung Cancer and Female Breast Cancer*

## Priority focus in other jurisdictions

Cancer is also identified as a priority area for FY2000 in:

Allegany County • Anne Arundel County • Carroll County • Charles County  
Frederick County • Harford County • Montgomery County • Washington County  
Wicomico County • Worcester County

## Highlights of HIP strategies recommended to reduce cancer

(for in-depth details, see the complete text of each state and county module in the HIP)

- Reduce cancer deaths in Maryland. (Overall rates: **State**; Due to breast cancer among non-white women: **Cecil County**)
- Eliminate the disparity in cancer mortality rates between ethnic minorities and whites and between rural and urban geographic areas. (**State**)
- Decrease the number of current smokers. (**State, Cecil County**)
- Increase the number of women, ages 40 and older, who have an annual clinical breast exam and a mammogram. (**Cecil County**)

## Statewide Partners

American Lung Association of Maryland • Cancer Advocacy Groups • Center for Cancer Surveillance and Control, DHMH • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • Johns Hopkins University Medical Systems • Maryland Chapter of the American Cancer Society • Maryland community hospitals • Maryland Department of the Environment • Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) • Maryland General Assembly • Maryland Local Health Departments • Med Chi—the Maryland State Medical Society • National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health • University of Maryland Medical Systems